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3 June 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller

FROM   :

SUBJECT   :   Request for Additional RECON Guard Program Funding

REFERENCES   :   A.   ODP-83-535 dtd 14 April 1983 (Attached)
                 B.   BSS Working Group Report dtd 5 May 1980
                      (Attached)

I. Summary

   This memorandum requests $210K for an unfunded requirement of
the RECON Guard Program. The objective of the program is to develop
and evaluate design concepts which enforce compartmentation when
communicating with a data base, initially, the RECON data base via
the COINS network. The requested funding permits RECON Guard
testing without exposing critical Agency information to a network
outside of Agency control. The choice of this option--an autonomous
test network in preference to live tests with the COINS network--is
the outgrowth of a recent policy deliberation (Reference A). This
choice, and possible hardware unavailability, are the proximal cause
of this unfunded requirement. There has been no cost growth nor
increase in scope.

II. Background

   The Office of Research and Development's RECON Guard Program was
initiated in accordance with Recommendation No. 1 of Reference B,

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which identified the Community On-line INtelligence System (COINS) as the network test vehicle. Late in the RECON Guard Program cycle, the question of the availability of a COINS Host Access System (HAS) (required for the Guard evaluation) was raised. Also the Offices of Central Reference, Security, and Data Processing, and the Directorate of Operations have expressed concern about possible exposure of classified information on the RECON data base to the COINS network during the evaluation. This is a legitimate concern in that the purpose of this program is to determine the validity of the Guard System concept. If the concept is found to be invalid or operationally unfeasible, this could be manifested by the exposure of classified data. The uncertainty of COINS-HAS availability and the security concerns necessitated a contingency plan to achieve program objectives. A Local Net Data Communications System was the best such alternative. The cost of the Local Net system configuration for the RECON Guard Program is $210K. This contingency plan, which has been agreed to by the offices participating in the RECON program, is discussed in the next section. Still to be resolved is the required operational support for Guard System operation during any evaluation phase. ODP/Operations feels the amount of support is incompatible with their operational work load.

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III. Alternative Evaluation Plan

The objectives of the RECON Guard Program evaluation phase are to determine (1) the theoretical validity of the Guard System concept and (2) the operational feasibility of the Guard System. This will be done by connecting the Guard System between the RECON information system and an external (to RECON) network.

The proposed alternative network would consist of a Local Net Data Communications System attached directly to the RECON Guard System. This provides several benefits: (1) The network would reside entirely within the Hqs. Ruffing Computer Center. Thus regardless of the results of testing, classified information will not be exposed outside of the Agency. (2) A technical benefit arises from the fact that the Local Net System is a complete network, unlike the COINS-HAS which is merely a front end to the community network. This permits a truly rigorous and exhaustive evaluation of the RECON Guard System's functional security and operational characteristics, impossible with the COINS-HAS. (3) Sytek, the designer and manufacturer of the Guard Sytem, can control and service the Local Net System as well as the Guard System during the evaluation phase, thus reducing the need for ODP support.

If the RECON Guard technical program is successfully completed, a COINS-HAS (if available) could be connected to the RECON Guard via

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the Local Net System to safely demonstrate the secure COINS/RECON access capability.

IV. Cost/Impact of Local Net Option

The cost of the Local Net System option is $210K which represents an unfunded requirement caused by the unavailability of the COINS network as the test vehicle for the program. Failure to fund this requirement risks: delay and associated costs in the program until a COINS-HAS is available, possible exposure of Agency compartmented information to external networks and unacceptable demands on ODP/Operations for support functions. Also the Guard System could not be confidently deployed on other networks without extensive further testing at a cost in time and dollars far exceeding $210K.

V. Recommendation

Timely funding of this requirement is recommended to permit a powerful and reliable security tool to be available to the Agency and the Intelligence Community in sufficient time (end of FY83) for incorporation into the CIRS effort and other Agency and Community planning.

Attachments:
   References A and B

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